

**JOINT BASE MYER-HENDERSON HALL
CASUALTY ASSISTANCE CENTER**



**JBM-HH Casualty Assistance Center
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Unpaid Pay and Allowances

- The retirement pay stops on the first day of the month in which retiree dies. Unpaid pay and allowances is a lump sum the DFAS pays the beneficiary. In the event the retiree did not elect to specifically designate beneficiaries to receive his final retirement pay. The amount due will be paid to the person or person (s) highest on the following list living at the time of death:
- The member's lawful surviving spouse.
- If there's no spouse, to the child or children and their descendants, by representation.
- If none of the above, to the parents of the member in equal shares to the surviving parent.
- If none of the above, to the legal representative of the member's estate.
- If none of the above, to the persons entitled under the law of the member in which the member was domiciled.

NOTE: Survivors should report retiree deaths to the DFAS casualty office at 1-800-321-1080. For more information visit the website

<http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/survivors/Retiree-death.html>

Required Documents:

- Claim for Unpaid Compensation, ([SF Form 1174](#))
- Death Certificate (Copy)

To formally close the military pay account at DFAS and the prorated pay simply complete the SF Form 1174, Claim for Unpaid Compensation, and mail or fax it along with a copy of the death certificate to:

Directorate of Retired Pay
DFAS-Cleveland Center
P.O. Box 7130
London, KY 40742-7130

Fax: 1-800-469-6559

You should receive the final pay in approximately 30-45 days. If DFAS sends you another copy of the SF1174 after you completed this one, you do not have to do this action again.

Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)

When a military retiree dies their retirement pay stops. This means that the surviving spouse will be left without a substantial income source. If you are a retiree you need to give serious thought to how you can protect your spouse from the hardships caused by the loss your retirement pay.

One option available to you is the Survivor Benefit Plan. The SBP is an insurance plan that will pay your surviving spouse a monthly payment (annuity) to help make up for the loss of your retirement income.

The original Congressional intent was that SBP:

- Would be a two-tiered benefit with a reduction at age 62 when the surviving spouse became eligible for Social Security. (**NOTE:** The benefit is **NOT** reduced at age 62 as a result of a law change in the FY05 National Defense Authorization Act.)
- Would be cost-shared between the government and the Retired Soldier on a 40/60 basis.
- Would ensure that any surviving spouse of a retiring Soldier who elects SBP would never be without a monthly income.

Survivor Benefit Plan Update: Participants in the Uniformed Services Survivor Benefit Plan for retired military members now have a new milestone to mark on their calendars.

Effective October 1, 2008, SBP participants who reach 70 years of age and have made 360 payments (30 years), will no longer have to pay premiums for continued SBP coverage and will be placed in "[Paid-up SBP](#)" status.

Required Documents:

- Verification for Survivor Annuity ([DD Form 2656-7](#))
- Fast Start Direct Deposit Form ([FMS 2231](#))
- Tax Withholding Certificate ([W-4P](#))
- Custodian Certificate for minor annuitants ([DD Form 2790](#))
- School Certification for minor annuitants ([DD form 2788](#))
- Death Certificate (Copy)

If you are the designated beneficiary of a deceased military retiree's Survivor Benefit Plan, please complete the following documents to begin your SBP annuity account:

DFAS-Cleveland Center
ATTN: DFAS-DE/FRB
P.O. Box 7131
London, KY 40742-7131

Fax: 1-800-982-8459

It will take about 30-45 days after you submit your application for this benefit to start, but the first payment will be paid retroactively to the day after your spouse (parent) died.

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation is a monthly benefit paid to eligible survivors of certain deceased veterans. The following is a summary of this important benefit:

Eligible Survivors:

The surviving spouse is eligible if he or she:

- validly married the veteran before January 1, 1957, OR
- was married to a service member who died on active duty, OR
- married the veteran within 15 years of discharge from the period of military service in which the disease or injury that caused the veteran's death began or was aggravated, OR
- was married to the veteran for at least one year, OR
- had a child with the veteran, AND
- cohabited with the veteran continuously until the veteran's death or, if separated, was not at fault for the separation, AND
- is not currently remarried.

Note: A surviving spouse who remarries on or after December 16, 2003, and on or after attaining age **57**, is entitled to continue to receive DIC.

The surviving child(ren) if he or she is:

- unmarried AND
- under age 18, or between the ages of 18 and 23 and attending school.

(Note: Certain helpless adult children are entitled to DIC. Call the toll-free number for the eligibility requirements for those survivors.) The surviving parents may be eligible for an income-based benefit. See our fact sheet, Parents' DIC, or call the toll-free number below for more information.

DIC Eligibility

DIC is a monthly benefit paid to eligible survivors of the following:

- Military service member who died while on active duty, OR
- Veteran whose death resulted from a service-related injury or disease, OR
- Veteran whose death resulted from a non service-related injury or disease, and who was receiving, or was entitled to receive, VA Compensation for service-connected disability that was rated as totally disabling
 - for at least 10 years immediately before death, OR
 - since the veteran's release from active duty and for at least five years immediately preceding death, OR
 - for at least one year before death if the veteran was a former prisoner of war who died after September 30, 1999.

Monthly Rate for 1 December 2011.

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation is paid to a surviving spouse at the monthly rate of **\$1,195**. See <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/rates/index.htm> for updated monthly DIC rate.

Additional Allowances:

- Add **\$296** per child for each dependent child under age 18
- VA also adds a transitional benefit of \$250 to the surviving spouse's monthly DIC if there are children under age 18.

*DIC apportionment rates approved by the Under Secretary for Benefits will be the additional allowance received for each child.

The Application Process:

You can apply by filling out the VA Form 21-534 ([Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, Death Pension and Accrued Benefits by a Surviving Spouse or Child](#)), and submitting it to the VA regional office that serves your area. Call the toll-free number below for information about supporting materials that VA may need to process your claim.

For more Information call Toll-Free 1-800-827-1000 or visit website www.va.gov.

Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA)

A provision of the National Defense Authorization Act Fiscal Year 2008, Public Law 110-181, established the SSIA for surviving spouses who are the beneficiary of the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity, and their SBP annuity is partially or fully offset by their Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC), paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The provision that established SSIA also applies to the surviving spouses of members who died on active duty whose SBP annuity is partially or fully offset by their DIC. The SSIA starts at \$50 per month for fiscal year 2009 and then increases each fiscal year by \$10 until the SSIA is \$100 for fiscal years following 2013. SSIA will not be paid for months prior to October 2008 and will terminate February 2016.

Surviving spouses whose SBP annuity is suspended due to remarriage prior to age 55 are not eligible for SSIA for the period their SBP annuity is suspended. If the marriage ends and the surviving spouse regains eligibility for SBP and DIC, they will also regain eligibility for SSIA. The SBP annuity for children is not offset by DIC. Therefore, child SBP beneficiaries are not authorized SSIA.

Surviving spouses whose SBP annuity is fully or partially offset by DIC are not required to apply for SSIA. The Defense Finance and Accounting Service – Cleveland (DFAS-CL) will automatically pay SSIA to surviving spouses whose SBP accounts show a DIC offset of their spouse SBP annuity for months starting in October 2008. Letters will be sent to all surviving spouses who qualify to receive this benefit. Surviving spouses not in receipt of this letter who believe they are entitled and have never applied for the SBP annuity benefit will not have an account to identify them as the SBP beneficiary eligible for payment of SSIA. These surviving spouses need to contact their Service representative for assistance with establishing their SBP annuity account. Account information and check address can be updated by contacting DFAS-CL at 1-800-321-1080 or contacting your military Service representative for assistance.

Payments will be paid in the following monthly amounts:

- For months during fiscal year 2012, \$80.00
- For months during fiscal year 2013, \$90.00
- For months after fiscal year 2014, \$150.00
- For months after fiscal year 2015, \$200.00
- For months after fiscal year 2016, \$275.00
- For months after fiscal year 2017, \$300.00

Ends 1 October 2017 if not extended by subsequent legislation.

VA Burial Benefits

VA Burial Allowances

VA burial allowances are partial reimbursements of an eligible veteran's burial and funeral costs. When the cause of death is not service-related, the reimbursements are generally described as two payments: (1) a burial and funeral expense allowance, and (2) a plot interment allowance.

Who Is Eligible ?

You may be eligible for a VA burial allowance if:

you paid for a veteran's burial or funeral *AND*

you have not been reimbursed by another government agency or some other source, such as the deceased veteran's employer *AND*

the veteran was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

In addition, at least one of the following conditions must be met:

the veteran died because of a service-related disability *OR*

the veteran was receiving VA pension or compensation at the time of death *OR*

the veteran was entitled to receive VA pension or compensation, but decided not to reduce his/her military retirement or disability pay *OR*

the veteran died in a VA hospital, in a nursing home under VA contract, or while in an approved state nursing home.

How Much Does VA Pay?

Service-Related Death. VA will pay up to **\$2,000** toward burial expenses for deaths on or after September 11, 2001. VA will pay up to **\$1,500** for deaths prior to September 10, 2001. If the veteran is buried in a VA national cemetery, some or all of the cost of transporting the deceased may be reimbursed.

Nonservice-Related Death. VA will pay up to **\$300** toward burial and funeral expenses, and a \$300 plot-interment allowance for deaths on or after December 1, 2001. The plot-interment allowance is \$150 for deaths prior to December 1, 2001. If the death happened

while the veteran was in a VA hospital or under VA contracted nursing home care, some or all of the costs for transporting the deceased's remains may be reimbursed.

How Can You Apply?

You can apply by filling out VA Form 21-530, [*Application for Burial Benefits*](#). You should attach proof of the veteran's military service (DD 214), a death certificate, and copies of funeral and burial bills you have paid.

For more Information call Toll-Free 1-800-827-1000 or visit website www.va.gov.

National Service Life Insurance

(World War II Program)

The National Service Life Insurance (NSLI) program was created on October 8, 1940, to manage the insurance needs of World War II service personnel. Over 22 million NSLI policies were issued from 1940 until the program was closed to new issues on April 25, 1951. Policies were issued under a variety of permanent plans and as renewable term insurance. Today there are just over 950,000 policies still in force and the average age of policyholders is 81 years. Annual dividends are paid on these policies. The maximum face amount of a policy is \$10,000. However, this limit does not include [paid-up additional insurance](#) which can be purchased with the annual dividends. Certain [disability benefits](#) are available under these policies for policyholders who become totally disabled before their 65th birthday.

Paid up Additional Insurance (PUA)

Policyholders who receive dividends on their policies can elect to use their annual dividends to purchase Paid-Up Additional insurance. This insurance:

is fully paid for once it has been purchased, no further premium payments are required.

has no maximum limit, policyholders can continue to add PUA to their policy as long as they desire.

has cash surrender and loan values and also earns annual dividends.

Required Documents:

- VA form 29-4125 Claim for One Sum Payment Government Life Insurance
- Death Certificate

To formally claim the insurance, simply complete the enclosed VA form 29-4125 and mail or fax it along with a copy of the death certificate to:

Department of Veterans Affairs
Regional Office and Insurance Center
P.O. Box 7208
Philadelphia, PA 19101

Fax: 1-888-748-5822

The telephone number for NSLI is 1-800-669-8477

For more information please visit website

<http://www.insurance.va.gov/gli/general/nsli.htm>

Veterans Group Life Insurance (VGLI)

Contact OSGLI

If you have questions about Servicemembers' or Veterans' Group Life Insurance, You should contact the Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance directly.

Toll-free telephone: 1-800-419-1473

Toll-free fax numbers:

Death and accelerated benefits claims only: 1-877-832-4943

All other fax inquiries: 1-800-236-6142

Overseas:

Phone Number: 973-548-5699

Fax Number: 973-548-5300

E-mail:

Death and accelerated benefits claims only: osgli.claims@prudential.com

All other inquiries: osgli.osgli@prudential.com

General Correspondence:

Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance

80 Livingston Avenue

Roseland, New Jersey 07068-1733

New VGLI Applications and VGLI Reinstatements:

OSGLI

PO Box 41618

Philadelphia, PA 19176-9913

Headstone or Marker

Eligibility for a Headstone or Marker

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) furnishes upon request, at no charge to the applicant, a Government headstone or marker for the grave of any deceased eligible veteran in any cemetery around the world. For all deaths occurring before September 11, 2001, the VA may provide a headstone or marker only for graves that are not marked with a private headstone.

When burial or memorial is in a national, post, or state veterans' cemetery, a headstone or marker will be ordered by the cemetery officials based on inscription information provided by the next of kin.

Spouses and dependents buried in a private cemetery are not eligible for a Government-furnished headstone or marker.

Persons Eligible for a Government Headstone or Marker in a Private Cemetery

a. Veterans and Members of the Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard)

(1) Any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who dies on active duty.

(2) Any veteran who was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. With certain exceptions, service beginning after September 7, 1980, as an enlisted person, and service after October 16, 1981, as an officer, must be for a minimum of 24 months or the full period for which the person was called to active duty. (Examples include those serving less than 24 months in the Gulf War or Reservists that were federalized by Presidential Act.) Undesirable, bad conduct, and any other type of discharge other than honorable may or may not qualify the individual for veterans benefits, depending upon a determination made by a VA Regional Office. Cases presenting multiple discharges of varying character are also referred for adjudication to a VA Regional Office.

b. Members of Reserve Components and Reserve Officers' Training Corps

(1) Reservists and National Guard members who, at time of death, were entitled to retired pay under Chapter 1223, title 10, United States Code, or would have been entitled, but for being under the age of 60. Specific categories of individuals eligible for retired pay are delineated in section 12731 of Chapter 1223, title 10, United States Code.

(2) Members of reserve components who die while hospitalized or undergoing treatment at the expense of the United States for injury or disease contracted or incurred under honorable conditions while performing active duty for training or inactive duty training, or undergoing such hospitalization or treatment.

(3) Members of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps of the Army, Navy, or Air Force who die under honorable conditions while attending an authorized training camp or on an authorized cruise, while performing authorized travel to or from that camp or cruise, or while hospitalized or undergoing treatment at the expense of the United States for injury or disease contracted or incurred under honorable conditions while engaged in one of those activities.

(4) Members of reserve components who, during a period of active duty for training, were disabled or died from a disease or injury incurred or aggravated in line of duty or, during a period of inactive duty training, were disabled or died from an injury incurred or aggravated in line of duty.

c. Commissioned Officers, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

(1) A Commissioned Officer of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (formerly titled the Coast and Geodetic Survey and the Environmental Science Services Administration) with full-time duty on or after July 29, 1945.

(2) A Commissioned Officer who served before July 29, 1945, and;

(a) Was assigned to an area of immediate military hazard while in time of war, or of a Presidentially declared national emergency as determined by the Secretary of Defense;

(b) Served in the Philippine Islands on December 7, 1941, and continuously in such islands thereafter; or,

(c) Transferred to the Department of the Army or the Department of the Navy under the provisions of the Act of May 22, 1917 (40 Stat. 87; 33 U.S.C. § 855).

d. Public Health Service

(1) A Commissioned Officer of the Regular or Reserve Corps of the Public Health Service who served on full-time duty on or after July 29, 1945. If the service of the particular Public Health Service Officer falls within the meaning of active duty for training, as defined in section 101(22), title 38, United States Code, he or she must have been disabled or died from a disease or injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.

(2) A Commissioned Officer of the Regular or Reserve Corps of the Public Health Service who performed full-time duty prior to July 29, 1945:

(a) In time of war;

(b) On detail for duty with the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard; or,

(c) While the Service was part of the military forces of the United States pursuant to Executive Order of the President.

(3) A Commissioned Officer serving on inactive duty training as defined in section 101(23), title 38, United States Code, whose death resulted from an injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.

e. World War II Merchant Mariners

(1) United States Merchant Mariners with oceangoing service during the period of armed conflict, December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946. Prior to the enactment of Public Law 105-368, United States Merchant Mariners with oceangoing service during the period of armed conflict of December 7, 1941, to August 15, 1945, were eligible. With enactment of Public Law 105-368, the service period is extended to December 31, 1946, for those dying on or after November 11, 1998. A DD-214 documenting this service may be obtained by submitting an application to Commandant (G-MVP-6), United States Coast Guard, 2100 2nd Street, SW, Washington, DC 20593. Notwithstanding, the Mariner's death must have occurred after the enactment of Public Law 105-368 and the interment not violate the applicable restrictions while meeting the requirements held therein.

(2) United States Merchant Mariners who served on blockships in support of Operation Mulberry during World War II.

Persons NOT Eligible for a Headstone or Marker

a. Disqualifying Characters of Discharge

A person whose only separation from the Armed Forces was under dishonorable conditions or whose character of service results in a bar to veterans benefits.

b. Discharge from Draft

A person who was ordered to report to an induction station, but was not actually inducted into military service.

c. Person Found Guilty of a Capital Crime

Eligibility for a headstone or marker is prohibited if a person is convicted of a Federal capital crime and sentenced to death or life imprisonment, or is convicted of a State capital crime, and sentenced to death or life imprisonment without parole. Federal officials are authorized to deny requests for headstones or markers to persons who are shown by clear and convincing evidence to have committed a Federal or State capital crime but were not convicted of such crime because of flight to avoid prosecution or by death prior to trial.

d. Subversive Activities

Any person convicted of subversive activities after September 1, 1959, shall have no right to burial in a national cemetery from and after the date of commission of such offense, based on periods of active military service commencing before the date of the commission of such offense, nor shall another person be entitled to burial on account of

such an individual. Eligibility will be reinstated if the President of the United States grants a pardon.

e. Active or Inactive Duty for Training

A person whose only service is active duty for training or inactive duty training in the National Guard or Reserve Component, unless the individual meets the following criteria.

(1) Reservists and National Guard members who, at time of death, were entitled to retired pay under Chapter 1223, title 10, United States Code, or would have been entitled, but for being under the age of 60. Specific categories of individuals eligible for retired pay are delineated in section 12731 of Chapter 1223, title 10, United States Code.

(2) Members of reserve components who die while hospitalized or undergoing treatment at the expense of the United States for injury or disease contracted or incurred under honorable conditions while performing active duty for training or inactive duty training, or undergoing such hospitalization or treatment.

(3) Members of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps of the Army, Navy, or Air Force who die under honorable conditions while attending an authorized training camp or on an authorized cruise, while performing authorized travel to or from that camp or cruise, or while hospitalized or undergoing treatment at the expense of the United States for injury or disease contracted or incurred under honorable conditions while engaged in one of those activities.

(4) Members of reserve components who, during a period of active duty for training, were disabled or died from a disease or injury incurred or aggravated in line of duty or, during a period of inactive duty training, were disabled or died from an injury incurred or aggravated in line of duty.

f. Other Groups

Members of groups whose service has been determined by the Secretary of the Air Force under the provisions of Public Law 95-202 as not warranting entitlement to benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Ordering a Headstone or Marker

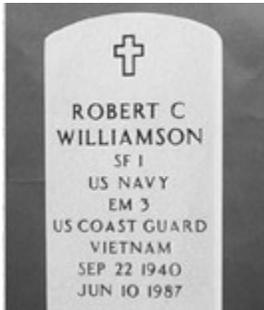
When burial or memorialization is in a national, post, or state veterans' cemetery, a headstone or marker will be ordered by the cemetery officials based on inscription information provided by the next of kin.

When burial is in a private cemetery, [VA Form 40-1330, *Application for Standard Government Headstone or Marker*](#) (PDF), must be submitted by the next of kin or a representative, such as funeral director, cemetery official or veterans counselor, along with [veterans military discharge documents](#), to request a Government-provided headstone or marker. Do not send original documents, as they will not be returned.

UPRIGHT TYPES:

These headstones are 42 inches long, 13 inches wide and 4 inches thick. Weight is approximately 230 pounds. Variations may occur in stone color, and the marble may contain light to moderate veining. *(Shown is the Upright Marble)*

Upright Marble or
Upright Granite



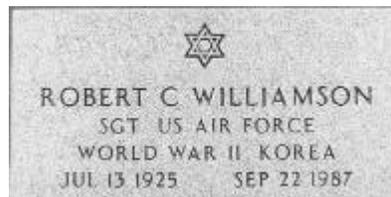
FLAT TYPES:

The flat bronze grave marker is 24 inches long, 12 inches wide, with 3/4 inch rise. Weight is approximately 18 pounds. Anchor bolts, nuts and washers for fastening to a base are furnished with the marker. The government does not furnish a base.

The flat granite and flat marble grave marker is 24 inches long, 12 inches wide, and 4 inches thick. Weight is approximately 130 pounds. Variations may occur in stone color; the marble may contain light to moderate veining. *(Shown is the Flat Granite)*

Bronze

Flat Granite or Flat Marble



BRONZE NICHE:

This niche marker is 8 1/2 inches long, 5 1/2 inches wide, with 7/16 inch rise. Weight is approximately 3 pounds; mounting bolts and washers are furnished with the marker.

Bronze Niche



MEDALLION

The Department of Veterans Affairs is making available a new medallion to be affixed to an existing privately purchased headstone or marker to signify the deceased's status as a veteran.

If requested, the medallion will be furnished in lieu of a traditional Government headstone or marker for veterans that died on or after November 1, 1990, and whose grave is marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker.

The medallion is currently available in three sizes, 5 inches, 3 inches, and 1 ½ inches. Each medallion will be inscribed with the word VETERAN across the top and the Branch of Service at the bottom. Appropriate affixing adhesive, instructions and hardware will be provided with the medallion.

Important: This benefit is only applicable if the grave is marked with a privately purchased headstone or marker. In these instances, eligible veterans are entitled to either a traditional Government-furnished headstone or marker, or the new medallion, but not both.

For family members of eligible Veterans interested in submitting a claim for the new medallion, instructions on how to apply for a medallion will be updated on NCA's web site at www.cem.va.gov/hm_hm.asp. Until a new form specifically for ordering the medallion is available, use  [VA Form 40-1330](#); Application for Standard Government Headstone or Marker. Fill the form out completely with the exception of blocks 11 (Type of Headstone or Marker Requested) and 27 (Remarks). Leave block 11 blank. In block 27 put the word Medallion followed by the size requested. For example; use "Medallion 5 inch" to request a 5 inch medallion.

Please continue to monitor this site for updated information regarding the new medallion.

One and a half inch Medallion



Five or three inch Medallion



Presidential Memorial Certificates

A Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC) is an engraved paper certificate, signed by the current President, to honor the memory of honorably discharged deceased veterans.

History

This program was initiated in March 1962 by President John F. Kennedy and has been continued by all subsequent Presidents. Statutory authority for the program is Section 112, Title 38, of the United States Code.

Administration

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) administers the PMC program by preparing the certificates which bear the current President's signature expressing the country's grateful recognition of the veteran's service in the United States Armed Forces.

Eligibility

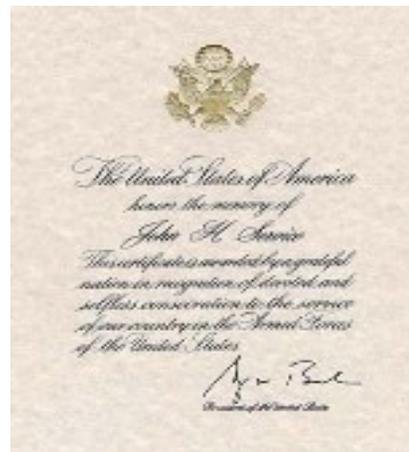
Eligible recipients include the next of kin and loved ones of honorably discharged deceased veterans. More than one certificate may be provided.

Application

Eligible recipients, or someone acting on their behalf, may apply for a PMC in person at any VA regional office or by U.S. mail or toll-free fax. Requests cannot be sent via email. Please be sure to enclose a copy of the veteran's discharge and death certificate to verify eligibility, as we cannot process any request without proof of honorable military service. Please submit copies only, as we will not return original documents.

If you would like to apply for a Presidential Memorial Certificate, or if you requested one more than eight (8) weeks ago and have not received it yet, we ask that you complete the application and submit it to us.

[VA Form 40-0247 Application for Presidential Memorial Certificate](#)



Burial Flags

Why Does VA Provide a Burial Flag?

A United States flag is provided, at no cost, to drape the casket or accompany the urn of a deceased veteran who served honorably in the U. S. Armed Forces. It is furnished to honor the memory of a veteran's military service to his or her country. VA will furnish a burial flag for memorialization for each other than dishonorable discharged



veteran who served during wartime

veteran who died on active duty after May 27, 1941

veteran who served after January 31, 1955

peacetime veteran who was discharged or released before June 27, 1950

certain persons who served in the organized military forces of the Commonwealth of the Philippines while in service of the U.S. Armed Forces and who died on or after April 25, 1951

certain former members of the Selected Reserves

Who Is Eligible to Receive the Burial Flag?

Generally, the flag is given to the next-of-kin, as a keepsake, after its use during the funeral service. When there is no next-of-kin, VA will furnish the flag to a friend making request for it. For those VA national cemeteries with an Avenue of Flags, families of veterans buried in these national cemeteries may donate the burial flags of their loved ones to be flown on patriotic holidays.

How Can You Apply?

You may apply for the flag by completing [VA Form 21-2008, Application for United States Flag for Burial Purposes](#). You may get a flag at any VA regional office or U.S. Post Office. Generally, the funeral director will help you obtain the flag.

Can a Burial Flag Be Replaced?

The law allows us to issue one flag for a veteran's funeral. We cannot replace it if it is lost, destroyed, or stolen. However, some veterans' organizations or other community groups may be able to help you get another flag.

How Should the Burial Flag Be Displayed?

The proper way to display the flag depends upon whether the casket is open or closed. VA Form 21-2008 provides the correct method for displaying and folding the flag. The burial flag is not suitable for outside display because of its size and fabric. It is made of cotton and can easily be damaged by weather.

For more Information call Toll-Free at 1-800-827-1000 or visit VA website
<http://www.cem.va.gov>

Military Funeral Honors

What is Military Funeral Honors?

Military Funeral Honors have always been provided whenever possible. However, the law now mandates the rendering of Military Funeral Honors for an eligible veteran if requested by the family. As provided by law, an honor guard detail for the burial of an eligible veteran shall consist of not less than two members of the Armed Forces. One member of the detail shall be a representative of the parent Service of the deceased veteran. The honor detail will, at a minimum, perform a ceremony that includes the folding and presenting of the American flag to the next of kin and the playing of Taps. Taps will be played by a bugler, if available, or by electronic recording. Today, there are so few buglers available that the Military Services often cannot provide one.

How much does a Military Funeral Honors detail cost?

Military Funeral Honors are provided by the Department of Defense at no cost to the family.

How does a family request funeral honors?

Families of eligible veterans request funeral honors through their funeral director. The funeral director will contact the appropriate Military Service to arrange for the funeral honors detail.

What can the family of an eligible veteran expect?

The core elements of the funeral honors ceremony, which will be conducted on request, include;

- Flag folding
- Flag presentation
- Playing of Taps

Required Documents:

DD 214 or Discharge Certificate

Bereavement Counseling

What is Bereavement Counseling?

Bereavement counseling is assistance and support to people with emotional and psychological stress after the death of a loved one. Bereavement counseling includes a broad range of transition services, including outreach, counseling, and referral services to family members.

Does VA Have Bereavement Counseling for Surviving Family Members?

The Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) offers bereavement counseling to parents, spouses and children of Armed Forces personnel who died in the service of their country. Also eligible are family members of reservists and National Guardsmen who die while on duty.

Where Is Counseling Offered?

VA's bereavement counseling is provided at community-based Vet Centers located near the families. There is no cost for VA bereavement counseling.

How Can You Obtain These Services?

Services are obtained by contacting Readjustment Counseling Service at 202-273-9116 or via electronic mail at vet.center@va.gov both of which are specific to this specialized service. RCS staff will assist families in contacting the nearest Vet Center. Often counseling can be made available in the family's home or where the family feels most comfortable.

Identification Card

Primary Next of Kin (PNOK) obtain a new identification card when sponsor dies.

Benefits they are entitled to will not change, but their status change since their sponsor is deceased. Death Certificate is required for DEERS database to be updated before a new card can be issued. You can locate the nearest facility that issues cards by visiting <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/appj/site?execution=e1s1>. Additional information or assistance is available through the Fort Myer Military ID Card facility at (703) 696-3030.

TRICARE for family of Retired Deceased Member

TRICARE for Life (Sample)

If Your Sponsor Dies

The loss of a loved one brings grief and sadness to surviving family members. It's comforting to know that TRICARE continues to provide coverage for your family if your sponsor dies, and you may continue to access care as you always have.

Widowed spouses remain eligible for TRICARE unless they remarry.

Children (biological or adopted) remain eligible up to the normal [*age limits](#).

For more information please contact TRICARE for Life at 1-866-773-0404 or visit the website www.tricare.mil

Social Security Lump Sum Death Payment

A family member or other person responsible for the beneficiary's affairs should do the following:

- Promptly notify Social Security of the beneficiary's death by calling SSA toll-free at **1-800-772-1213**. (TTY 1-800-325-0778.)
- If monthly benefits were being paid via direct deposit, notify the bank or other financial institution of the beneficiary's death. Request that any funds received for the month of death and later be returned to Social Security as soon as possible.
- If benefits were being paid by check, **DO NOT CASH** any checks received for the month in which the beneficiary died or thereafter. Return the checks to Social Security as soon as possible.

One-time Lump Sum Death Benefit

A one-time payment of \$255 is payable to the surviving spouse if he or she was living with the beneficiary at the time of death, OR if living apart, was eligible for Social Security benefits on the beneficiary's earnings record for the month of death.

If there is no surviving spouse, the payment is made to a child who was eligible for benefits on the beneficiary's earnings record in the month of death.

For more information please contact the Social Security Office at 1-800-772-1213 or visit the SSA website <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/deathbenefits.htm>

General Assistance	106 Custer Road Fort Myer, Virginia 22211	Phone (703) 696-3237 or 3238 e-mail: website: http://www.jbmhh.army.mil/WEB/JBMHH/Services/CasualtyAffairs.html
Retirement Pay Settlement	Directorate of Retired Pay DFAS - Cleveland Center P.O. Box 7131 London, KY 40742-7131	Phone (800) 321-1080 website: http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary.html
Survivor Benefit Plan Pay Annuity	<u>Retiree</u> Directorate of Retired Pay DFAS - Denver Center Attn: DFAS - DE/FRB P.O. Box 7131 London, KY 40742-7131	Phone (800) 321-1080 website: http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary.html
VA Benefits	Department of Veteran's Affairs 1722 I Street NW Washington, D.C. 20421-1111	Phone (800) 827-1000 website: www.va.gov
Headstones & Flags	Department of Veteran's Affairs Memorial Programs Service 5109 Russell Road Quantico, VA 22134-3903	Phone (800) 697-6947 website: www.cem.va.gov
NSLI Insurance	Department of Veteran's Affairs Regional Office and Insurance Center	Phone (800) 669-8477 website: www.insurance.va.gov/

	P.O. Box 42954 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19101	
VGLI Insurance	Office of SM Group Life Insurance 290 West Mt. Pleasant Avenue Livingston, New Jersey 07039	Phone (800) 419-1473 http://www.insurance.va.gov/sqliSite/default.htm
Civil Service Benefits	Office of Personnel Management Retirement Operations Center P.O. Box 2627 Jersey City, NJ 07303-2627	Phone (202) 606-0500 or 1 (724) 794-2005 website: www.opm.gov/retirees
Civil Service Insurance (FEGLI)	Office of Federal Employee's Group Life Insurance 200 Park Avenue New York, New York 10166- 0188	Phone (800) 633-4542 website: www.opm.gov/insure/life
Social Security Benefits	Social Security Administration	Phone (800) 772-1213 e-mail: none website: http://www.ssa.gov
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, Inc. (TAPS)	National Headquarters 1777 F Street NW, Suite 600 Washington, DC 20006	Phone (202) 558-8277 1-800-959-8277 website: http://www.taps.org/
Arlington National Cemetery	King Street, Arlington, VA	Phone (703) 607-8585 Website: http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil

**Supporting Agencies
on Local Military Installations
near Washington DC**

	Joint Base Myer- Henderson Hall	Fort Meade Odenton, MD	Andrews AFB Clinton, MD	Fort Belvoir, VA	Walter Reed Medical Center
Telephone Prefixes	(703) 696-xxxx	(301) 677- XXXX	(301) 981- XXXX	(703) 805- XXXX	(301) 295- XXXX (301) 400- XXXX
ID Card Section	3030	9586	1776	5578	295- 0127
Legal Assistance	0761	9536	3622	4018	400- 2152
Army Emergency Relief	6435	4542	7087	1833	
Army Community Service	3510	5590	7087	4590	
American Red Cross	(703) 696-3057	2141	1-877- 272- 7337	2057	295- 1538